

HB1491/903499/1

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1491
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute “Public Service Commission – Repeal of Master Metering Authorization and Study on Energy Allocation Systems and Submetering”; in line 3, strike “requiring the Public Service” and substitute “repealing certain provisions of law authorizing the Public Service Commission to authorize the use of a master meter in a residential multiple occupancy building for certain purposes under certain circumstances; requiring the”; in lines 3 and 4, strike “of the effects of master meters in certain residential multiple occupancy buildings;” and substitute “on the feasibility of transitioning master meters installed and used for gas, electric, or water to energy allocation systems or submeters in apartment buildings or complexes, condominiums, and housing cooperatives;”; in lines 6 and 7, strike “providing for the termination of this Act;”; in lines 7 and 8, strike “submetering in multiple occupancy buildings” and substitute “metering for gas, electricity, and water in multiple occupancy buildings, including apartments, condominiums, and housing cooperatives”; and after line 8, insert:

“BY repealing

Article - Public Utilities

Section 7-304.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2010 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 9 on page 1 through line 3 on page 2 and substitute:

(Over)

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities

[7-304.1.

(a) In this section, “master meter” means a meter used to measure, for billing purposes, the total amount of electricity or natural gas used in a building by a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system, including the combined use from all individually leased or owned units and all common areas.

(b) The Commission may authorize the use of a master meter in a residential multiple occupancy building for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services without requiring individual metering or submetering for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services as provided under § 7-303 or § 7-304 of this subtitle if:

(1) the utility bill for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services for each individually leased or owned occupancy unit is included in the rent for that unit;

(2) the Commission is satisfied that the use of the master meter for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services will result in a net savings of energy over the energy savings that would result from individual metering or submetering for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services; and

(3) each individually leased or owned occupancy unit:

(i) has individual metered service for other energy services; and

(ii) directly receives the utility bill for the other energy services.

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(c) Before authorizing the use of a master meter for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning services, the Commission may review the proposed allocation of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system expenses among individual units and common areas served by the master meter.

(d) In accordance with § 7-301 of this subtitle, an electric company or a gas company may inspect and test a master meter authorized for use by the Commission under this section.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Public Service Commission shall conduct a study on the feasibility of transitioning master meters installed and used for gas, electric, or water to energy allocation systems or submeters in apartment buildings or complexes, condominiums, and housing cooperatives.

(b) The study shall include:

(1) the number and location of apartment buildings or complexes, condominiums, and housing cooperatives that currently use a master meter for gas, electric, or water;

(2) the estimated cost of transitioning master meters used for gas, electric, or water to energy allocation systems or submeters;

(3) the number of master meter accounts for apartment buildings or complexes, condominiums, and housing cooperatives that have been in arrears over two or more billing cycles during the period of the study; and

(4) any existing programs in the State to assist landlords or tenants in converting master metering systems into energy allocation or submetering systems.”.

(Over)

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On page 2, in line 7, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; and strike beginning with “It” in line 8 down through “effect.” in line 10.